

### Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 14-17 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nelson. The Examiner rejected claims 14-16, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Houghton. Independent claims 14 and 20 recite alignment means. Mean clauses are to be interpreted in view of what is disclosed in the specification and equivalence thereof. MPEP 2181. The specification discloses non-circular seating elements which correspond to the alignment means of these claims. The applicant submits that neither Nelson or Houghton disclose the corresponding structure or an equivalent thereof to the alignment means recited in independent claims 14 and 20. For these reasons the applicant submits that these references do not anticipate these claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cocino. Independent claim 25 recites a support plate that is coupled to a pendulum assembly. Cocino does not disclose a vibration isolator with a support plate that is coupled to a pendulum assembly. For this reason the applicant submits that Cocino does not anticipate this claim. Additionally, independent claim 25 recites that the support plate moves in both an axial and rotational direction relative to the housing. Cocino can only move in an axial direction. For this further reason Cocino does not anticipate these claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of Sogoian. The Examiner states that Sogoian would teach to modify Houghton to include non-circular seat and shoulder elements. The applicant respectfully traverses this contention.

Independent claims 1 and 8 recite a support plate that can move in both an axial and rotational direction relative to the housing. Sogoian discloses a door-closing apparatus wherein

the piston can only move in an axial direction. Sogoian does not teach or suggest an element, that can move in both on axial and rotational direction, and is seated into a corresponding non-circular seat. Additionally, Sogoian does not provide any motivation to do so. Sogoian provides a rectangular plate to prevent rotation of the piston within the housing. This actually teaches away from independent claims 1 and 8 which recite the allowance of rotational movement. For all of the above reasons the applicant submits that the combination of Houghton and Sogoian do not render unpatentable claims 1-4 and 8-10.

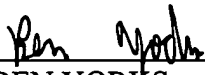
The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of Sogoian in further view of Nelson. The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Houghton in view of Nelson. The applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent upon allowable independent claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-28 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

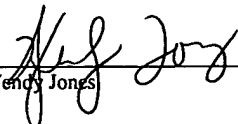
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Wendy Jones  
Date 2/13/03

## APPENDIX

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 8, 14, 20 and 25 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:  
a housing that has an outer non-circular seat;  
a support plate that has a non-circular shoulder and can move in both an axial and rotational direction relative to said housing; and,  
a pendulum assembly coupled to said support plate.
8. (Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:  
a housing that has an inner non-circular seat;  
a support plate that can move in both an axial and rotational direction relative to said housing;  
a piston that has a non-circular outer surface; and,  
a cable coupled to said piston and said support plate.
14. (Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:  
a housing that has outer alignment means;  
a support plate that has means for aligning with said housing and can move in both an axial and rotational direction relative to said housing; and,  
a pendulum assembly coupled to said support plate.
20. (Amended) A vibration isolator, comprising:  
a housing that has inner alignment means;

a support plate that can move in both an axial and rotational direction relative to said housing;

a piston that has alignment means for aligning with said housing; and,  
a cable coupled to said piston and said support plate.

25. (Amended) A method for aligning a support plate of a pneumatic vibration isolator, comprising:

releasing a fluid from a housing of a vibration isolator such that a support plate becomes seated within a non-circular seat of the housing, the support plate being coupled to a pendulum assembly, the support plate being capable of movement in both axial and rotational directions.